

1 1. (currently amended) A method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database
2 management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database
3 management system, the method comprising the steps of:

4 making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries
5 and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that ~~may have~~is capable of having
6 a plurality of members; and

7 deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality
8 thereof.

1 2. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 3. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the
3 set.

1 4. (original) The method set forth in claim 3 wherein:

2 The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each
3 member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are
4 separated by a separator character.

1 5. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2 the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of
3 members in the set.

1 6. (original) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2 the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an
3 element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular
4 member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the
5 absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding
6 element.

1 **7.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:
2 in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the
3 set are derived are time values.

1 **8.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:
2 in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of
3 the set are derived are location values.

1 **25.** (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:
2 the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs a
3 method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an
4 aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the method
5 comprising the steps of:

6 making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries
7 and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that ~~may have~~is capable of having
8 a plurality of members; and

9 deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality
10 thereof.

1 **26.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:
2 the method further comprises the step of
3 deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1 **27.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:
2 the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the
3 set.

1 **28.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in that:
2 The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each
3 member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are
4 separated by a separator character.

1 **29.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2 the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of
3 members in the set.

1 **30.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in that:
2 the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an
3 element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular
4 member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the
5 absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding
6 element.

1 **31.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:
2 in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the
3 set are derived are time values.

1 **32.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:
2 in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the
3 set are derived are location values.